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03500.013538

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: C. Sukhaphadhana
TAKAHIRO MATSUURA, ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 2625
Application No.: 09/317,844)
:
Filed: May 25, 1999)
:
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)
AND APPARATUS AND)
RECORDING MEDIUM) August 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

FOREIGN PATENTS:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
7-154623	Japan	June 16, 1995
9-98300	Japan	August 4, 1997
2-210966	Japan	August 22, 1990
8-37603	Japan	February 6, 1996
9-238265	Japan	September 9, 1997
8-256273	Japan	October 1, 1996
9-149244	Japan	June 6, 1997

08/24/2004 EABUBAK1 00000035 09317844 180.00 OP
01 FC:1806

REMARKS

The Japanese documents listed herein were cited in connection with examination of corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 11-138543; a copy of the Official Action from the Japanese Patent Office identifying these references also is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

English translations of the Japanese Patent documents are not readily available to Applicants' attorney, but may be provided if required by the Examiner. In this regard, U.S. Patent No. 5,502,580 corresponds to the JP '623 reference; U.S. Patent No. 6,320,980 corresponds to the JP '300 reference, and U.S. Patent No. 5,982,416 corresponds to the JP '265 reference. An English abstract for each of the Japanese references obtained from a commercial data base also is enclosed as an English language statement of relevance for the Examiner's consideration.

Further, in the Japanese Official Action, the Japanese Examiner generally makes the following assertions:

The JP '623 reference discloses a system in which a converting table is formed from the input target profile and the output target profile so as to convert any input image, and that it is well known, e.g., from the JP '623 reference, that plural profiles have been prepared to be selectable;

The JP '300 reference discloses the use of a grey chart;

The JP '300 and JP '603 references each disclose a system in which a table prepared for each of the color components;

The JP '966 reference discloses that a highlight portion is edge-emphasized in a color correction of an image;

The JP '603 reference discloses that color correction is performed after white balance has been corrected;

It is well known, e.g., from the JP '265 and JP '273 references that color correction can be adjusted according to the input device; and

JP '244 reference discloses that the kind of input device is included as a code in the header information of an image.

Without conceding the propriety of the Japanese Examiner's characterizations of the references, Applicants submit that none of these references discloses or suggests the features of the present invention; particularly, Applicants submit that none of these references discloses or suggests at least the features of the cited holding step, generating step, and characterizing portions (see Claim 1).

FEE STATEMENT

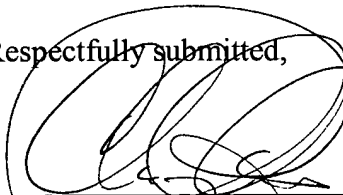
A check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in or overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

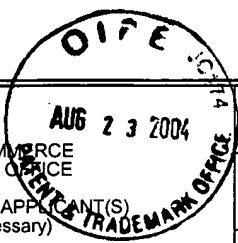
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed
to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.013538		APPLICATION NO. 09/317,844	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				APPLICANT TAKAHIRO MATSUURA, ET AL.			
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) August 23, 2004				FILING DATE May 25, 1999		GROUP 2625	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,502,580	03/1996	Yoda, et al.	358	518	
		6,320,980	11/2001	Hidaka	382	167	
		5,982,416	11/1999	Ishii, et al.	348	29	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		7-154623	06/1995	Japan			Abstract
		9-98300	04/1997	Japan			Abstract
		2-210966	08/1990	Japan			Abstract
		8-37603	02/1996	Japan			Abstract
		9-238265	09/1997	Japan			Abstract
		8-256273	10/1996	Japan			Abstract
		9-149244	06/1997	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		Official Action dated May 19, 2004; Japanese Patent Application No. 11-138543.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.